

Expression of Interest EOI 2022-23

Part 1- General Details

EOI ID	2223EOI0333		
EOI Title: (max 80 char)	Re-use of textile waste and its potential for composting on farm as a carbon and nutrient source		
Type of Research	Knowledge creation		
Proposed Start Date:	1/07/2022	Proposed End Date:	30/06/2025
<i>Please refer to CRDC's Strategic R&D Plan 2018-2023 for the following:</i>			
CRDC Goal	2. Improve cotton farming sustainability and value chain competitiveness		
CRDC Key Focus Area	2.1 Sustainability of cotton farming		
CRDC Outcome	2.1.1 Improved environmental footprint for cotton farms		
CRDC Performance Indicator	Increase in sustainability metrics and improved carbon footprint		
Rural RD&E Priorities	Soil, Water and Managing Natural Resources		
Science and Research Priorities	Soil and water		
R&D Manager	Meredith Conaty	FRP Due Date	13/10/2021

Part 2 –Expression of Interest Requirements

Issue to be addressed and project description:				
<p>The compostability of cotton fabric is a potential means of creating a circular system of cotton production, allowing growers to return carbon to the soil and potentially benefit soil health and functionality as well as create a sustainable method of end-of-life management for cotton clothing or waste, and an exciting marketing angle for the cotton industry as a whole.</p> <p>Currently there is no established method for composting cotton fibre, and its effects on soil health and functionality is unclear. This could be a means of increasing soil carbon and give growers a method of carbon sequestration on farm, although the amount of carbon that could be sequestered this way and its potential longevity in the soil is unclear.</p>				
Expected project outputs and outcomes:				
<p>This project will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine a method for composting cotton fibre 2. Assess the impact of composted cotton fabric on soil health and functionality 3. Assess the potential for composted cotton fabric to increase soil carbon and microbial activity 				
Project Investment:				
Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	TOTAL
Indicative budget (up to)	\$150,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$650,000

Part 3 –Selection Criteria

The following selection criteria will be used by the CRDC to assess the full research proposals (FRPs) received for each Expression of Interest.

1. The rationale of the project, how it will support CRDC’s Strategic Plan and the potential impacts for the Australian cotton industry and the Australian community.

This criterion will be assessed on the soundness of the proposal’s understanding of the issues, and the extent to which the project outcomes will address the issues and support CRDC to achieve its measures of success.

2. Project methodology.

This criterion will be assessed on the soundness and clarity of the proposed R&D methods to achieve project deliverables and outcomes.

3. The skills and capacity of the research team to undertake the project.

This criterion will be assessed on the track record, technical knowledge and experience of all key personnel in the research area and the demonstrated capacity of the nominated researcher/s to provide project coordination, management, monitoring and evaluation for the timely delivery of high quality outputs.

4. The proposed ‘Pathway to Impact’.

This criterion will be assessed on the appropriateness of the proposed ‘Pathway to Impact’ and the demonstrated capacity of the project personnel to effectively translate research/project outcomes to on ground actions. Please include the target audience and process for extension/ communication/ commercialisation (as appropriate), as well as any collaboration partners and potential risks. Note that successful FRPs may be requested to develop specific milestones for delivery of project outcomes in collaboration with CottonInfo or CRDC Commercialisation Manager at the outset of the project.

5. Proposed collaborations for the project and / or the collaborative networks of the project team.

This criterion will be assessed on the demonstrated ability of the project personnel to form productive networks to build on national and international research already undertaken in related areas.

6. How this project is cost effective for the Australian cotton industry, including details of the resources being brought to the project.

(This criterion will be assessed on the cost effectiveness of this project including cash and in-kind commitments from the applicants and leverage through domestic or international linkages. Budget including descriptive text will also be assessed as part of this criterion. Max 2,000 character limit including spaces)

For information on how to apply, please refer to: www.crdc.com.au/for-researchers

This EOI is not a guarantee of funding.